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News of Books and The Book World

Rowland's "Duds"

American fiction often seems to be manners, gods and chestaut burrs.

in publishing houses could easily become the writers and the staid nid publishing houses themselves might their buildings on the latest and most

thing newackeys? Wall, and you were the new contained more parasines of the today rent number of a menthly magazine tas even drawn up a scenario for Fac Education of Heavy Adoma. Long you'll have supposed imaginable. Poor Relations is to be commended to from the immense army of direct according to the contained to the contained

The best movie we have lately read is Dude, by Henry C. Bowland. It looks one is overdrawn, as it may be, and like his first five rector, and it's a winner. Everybody but Charlie Chaplin and Mary Finkford has a part in it. Dude is a splended title. Close your eyes and visualize it as it is finished to the screen. There are punch and mys-tery in the word. It sets many contery in the word. It sets many condark of a movie auditorium

for "rags" or other post-Edenic outer accontrement. Among theres it means accountement. Among theres it means in usual merit. Possibly the greatest is around at a dozen bulky things which "gwag," "loot," "treasura." Dods are Mr. Payne's human realism, which has they cannot abide. Here is first rate usually divided in cellars, hall fooms shows in the thoroughly good short savage talk, with brains behind it. The or under the Brooklyn Bridge, down stories of every day life and crime that victims of some of their conlaughts are near the Cak street police station. spilled to unearned increment. Proudseptiled to unearned increment. Proudwork, which also, as narrative, is capical reasons, doesn't disturb. And so
ben went as far as to say. "All dods
is rebbery." Or it may mean a shell
the author's career has been, but are
that didn't explode? Definitions of this
mystical word vary with the Bodil
imminal lawyer of experience and a
one being Theodore Roosevelt or his "Duds" in Mr. Rowland's scenario of

Before going deeper into the details of this crackalack detective story we wish to draw the reader's attention to a paragraph of wast sociological impor-tance, the only one in the book that really involves us in thought. It is on page 114 that it is set down that "very for getting it under the public eye and congratulate him on his courage.

After Diamonds - alias dute - the greatest character in this book is Patriia, a Prenchwoman who has studied in-fitm and all the tricks of Hoodini. ju-fites and all the triess of Documents of the and who uses them to great effect on legion of Phiness Plumbett, U. R. A. proprietor for succo of an international "fence" in New world."

Phinese himself is the Dustin Farmon of the drama. Of good family, a gen-tieman, a soldier who never got to France and an art connoisseur into the bargain, he is flung into a mess of dismend smugglers, who carry on their trade somewhere off the Long Island (Great motor boat chase, exciting landing somewhere beyond Fire Island and other fashes keep the spec-

tator from coughing)
Next we see little Oign, the daughter of the man higher up in the emuggling game. She is innocent and teau-tiful as Little Eva. Lured to an apart-ment and "doped" in champagne (this s a historical novel), she is rescoed by Phineas at the point of a gun that never reached Chateau Thierry. (That occurs in the fourth reel, about page 250.) Will Phinese marry Patricia, the heavyweight French villainness, or little Oiga with the candy lips and the baby stare? We cannot tell you, dear impatient reader; that mystery is one of

Mr. Rowland is an expert director and knows how to pose his puppers. We used to call this "character drawing" in the good old ancient days of American fiction. But "characters" have gone out of fashion.

No police reporter should fall to see

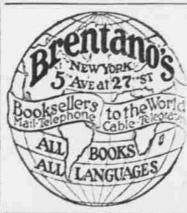
DUDS. By Hanny C. Rowland. Harper

Compton Mackenzie's

"Poor Relations" A novel by Compton Mackensie is

likely to lack the elements of a story He is not so much a fictionist as a juggler with certain essential human problems, for the sake of which jusgling he invents his characters and scenes. We read him with our eyes open, in nowise deceived, but more than content to let him confuct his novels in his own way, and we enjoy him thoroughly. Never more so than in Poor Relations (Harper's)—the finest argument in favor of race suicide ever put in the form of light fiction. As a matter of fact, while light in weight is dark enough in color to satisfy is absolute misanthrops.

John Touchwood returned to England after seeing his latest play produced in America ("and playing to capacity in one of the largest New York theatres is rearer to a material paradise than anything outside the Mohammedan re-ligion," according to this captivating author), only to find his cintment swarming with flies in the form of relations. It is after a prolonged outbreak of



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There is one small nephew almost

readment, gods and chestrait burrs. equal to Henry James's Exadelph Mill derdone. It's the profine, not the crede.

If it weren't for the royalities most lef, more than which cannot be said. that is The American Crede's (Knopf) of the fiction writing in this country and altogether the book contains some professed "contribution toward the Stwould cease. It would all go directly of the rarest bits of description you temperation of the national mind." Of the number of the screen. The editors and readers of the departure of the liner, with which course the authors know this and are the story opens. "The sense of being content with it. Their solemn assertion imprisoned in a decaying but water both of indicates profundates, "Sescriptive the is new and vivil. And we like sociological psychology," in the crede's what is said about John's dressing case. 455 articles is written tongue in cheek. approved "studie" lines.

As a matter of fact, why rend anyching newadays? Wast, and you'll see and when full to break his back, and
thing newadays? Wast, and you'll see and when full to break his back, and
the methods desk than one

to status the argument though it is of course invented, and whether the pre'ouped, as it undoubtedly is, it is the apopes of discomfort in family af-fairs. We have never known the author more enthusiastic or more vital.

"Dude" was originally finery, slang Mead), which was serialized as Block one) do achieve a characterization of "Tags" or other post-Edenic outer these, is a crime and mystery tale of the national mind. And they limit ar the Cak street police station. So has been producing for several years. Seatures of the national panorama which "Duds" may be also an economic term. It is equally districts in this longer a newspaper writer, for christa practimystical word vary with the Bottal or minal lawyer of experience and a one being Theodore Rocsevelt or his strainm of which you happen to be an incordance reporter—a good one. His memory, seem in their natures to be gift for fiction is such as to realize fully outside our authors' constitutional angle on the values of equipment of that kind, of understanding. III finales evidently means Diamonda and if ever for a change he takes his shy We realize that this comment on The at the Great American Novel we are go- American Credo will not convey a great

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